## Exhibit A

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MEANITH HUON,
vs.
BREAKING MEDIA, et al.,
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline \multirow{4}{*}{Plaintiff,} & \multirow[t]{4}{*}{Docket No. 11 C 3054} \\
\hline & \\
\hline & \\
\hline & \\
\hline & Chicago, Illinois \\
\hline & January 10, 2013 \\
\hline Defendants. & 9:00 o'clock a.m. \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - STATUS BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOHN J. THARP, JR.
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## APPEARANCES:

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produce the entire transcript. The reason being -- and they have the entire trial transcript. The reason being is if they are going to assert the reporter privilege, the reporter privilege only applies -- it doesn't apply if they don't fully disclose everything that took place in the original proceedings. The other thing is most of these articles were about the consent defense. The consent defense never went to the jury. That's in the trial transcript.

The magistrate judge at the time recommended that I issue discovery to get that. Now, since you have denied my motion to conduct limited discovery and since I can't get the parties to do a $26(f)$ conference, I have an issue with discovery. I need that trial transcript in order to respond to the motion to dismiss. That's one of the first issues.

THE COURT: A11 right. We will get to that in just a second.

With respect to the motion -- let me -- just preliminarily, where do we stand on service?

MR. HUON: That's the second issue. You had ordered the defendants to answer -- to disclose under 7.1 or what their affiliates are which is the reason we are back here because I had to identify the issues of citizenship. Breaking Media, I acknowledge when they were served or in the suit, they appeared correctly as Breaking Media, L.L.C. Now they appear as Breaking Media, Inc.


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th have appeared as Gawker Media. It's very difficult -- we know that there are several Gawker entities. There's Gawker Media, Inc., Gawker Technologies, Gawker, L.L.C. It's very difficult to tell who they are responding for and they have not answered the 7.1 disclosure. Breaking Media has.

THE COURT: Hold on. Hold on.
MR. FEIGE: Sure. Sorry, Judge.
MR. HUON: I think that they should be ordered to state who they're responding for because that would allow me to move forward as to whether I am going to default the ones who I think that they have already appeared for by appearing as Gawker, and that would also allow me to identify who I need to serve. I have sent waiver of service of summons to Gawker. But by appearing as Gawker Media, it's difficult to tell who they're here for.

THE COURT: A11 right. Mr. Feige.
MR. FEIGE: Yes, if I could just respond. The 7.1 disclosures, I'm sorry, that should be filed within the hour. They're done and should be being filed now. I can just answer those fairly simply.

Gawker Media Group, Inc., owns Gawker Media, L.L.C., which has one member, that being Gawker Media Group, Inc. Gawker Media, L.L.C., is the sole member of Gawker Entertainment, L.L.C., Gawker Sales, L.L.C., and Gawker

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Technology, L.L.C. I am appearing for all of them and, of course, the individual defendants.

THE COURT: A11 right.
MR. FEIGE: I think that's sufficiently clear. I know there's a lot of Gawkers in there.

THE COURT: I think it is. Mr. Hon.
MR. HUON: I didn't have time to catch all of that, Judge. If he could put it in a letter and send it to us. Last time the magistrate judge ordered him to put something in a letter.

THE COURT: Will your disclosure that's going to be filed --

MR. FEIGE: It will contain all of that, yes, and it should be there within the hour.

THE COURT: You will get the disclosure. If you have any further questions, it doesn't sound like there's any issue there that we should have a problem cooperating identifying exactly who is represented.

MR. FEIGE: No, I don't expect so.
THE COURT: A11 right. Now, with respect to the trial transcript, do either of the defendants have or groups of defendants have a response?

MR. MANDELL: I don't frankly recall what counsel is talking about that happened in front of the magistrate. Obviously, he was the defendant in the proceeding. We have

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spent money to obtain the transcript. You know, I am not opposed to sharing the transcript with him. It would be nice if he shared the cost of the transcript.

THE COURT: Is there any reason, Mr. Huon, you can't obtain the transcript yourself?

MR. HUON: We11, when I called the court reporter, the entire trial transcript is $\$ 5,000$. The other thing is, you know, I am pro se. They're relying on this, so as officers of the court, they have a duty to disclose the whole facts. They can't just disclose selective things.

THE COURT: Sure, they can. If you think that they have not provided something they are required to provide, you have to raise that point, but they certainly are entitled to support their motion to dismiss with whatever it is that they think is relevant. If you think there's some other portion of a trial transcript that is relevant, the fact that they have introduced it might give you an opening to include that in your response, but it's not their responsibility to do that for you.

MR. HUON: I could propose talking to counsel to find out what his costs are. In the worst case scenario, he can perhaps produce one page where the Court makes it clear that the consent defense never went to the jury, and that one page might be a dollar for the copy.

THE COURT: Why don't you all have a discussion about

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that because I am not clear exactly what you're talking about. See if you can work it out. I wil1 tell you what I tell all counse1. I expect counsel to cooperate and be reasonable so we can get things done efficiently, and efficiency includes economically, but having said that, the defendants don't have any right to pay for your lawsuit here.

MR. HUON: I understand.
THE COURT: Now, with respect to the briefing on the motions, what do you need to respond?

MR. HUON: Since they had 53 days to put it together, Judge, I am just asking for 60. I got War and Peace and Anna Karenina to respond to here. They are massive briefs. I am asking for 60 days. I don't have three law firms working on the file, and the original briefing schedule before the case was transferred, I think we have similar times as well.

THE COURT: A11 right. It's your case. You are the plaintiff. 60 days to respond.

THE CLERK: March 12th.
MR. HUON: Is there a way that you can move it by a week so I can try to work out the trial transcript issue, just give us a week to work out the trial transcript issue, 60 days from a week from now?

THE COURT: No, 60 days. That's plenty of time.
On that score, the motions by both groups of defendants for leave to file memoranda in excess of 15 pages

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are granted. That's docket entries 176 and 181. Mr. Huon, I will give you leave to file a consolidated response memoranda to both motions of up to 35 pages. That's I think equal, approximately, to the total number of pages in the two motions, and then reply briefs will not exceed 15 pages.

MR. HUON: That's the last issue I wanted to address, if I can have your indulgence.

The issue with the briefing schedule, this came up with the original briefing schedule as well before it was transferred to you. Breaking Media filed an 18-page brief and then they filed a 17-page chart. I think that circumvents the page requirements because I am responding to a 17-page chart.

Now, with respect to Gawker Media, the first couple of pages they are talking about facts and allegations that are very inflammatory that's not relevant. The Seventh Circuit has said there is no such thing as a defamation outlaw. It takes one sentence to cry fire in the theater; it takes pages to explain that there is no fire. They have done that before. What happened before the case was transferred to you, I had responded to them separately. I have no problems responding to them separately, but the Court actually gave me 30 pages. I am not saying I am going to use 30 pages, but if he's got a 17-page chart plus an 18-page brief and Gawker Media has a 22-page response brief and two pages are devoted to name calling where they are moving from lawyers' advocate --

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| 09:17:20 | 1 | THE COURT: How many pages do you think you need? |
| 09:17:22 | 2 | MR. HUON: I wanted to have the option of a 30-page |
| 09:17:25 | 3 | response for each side. |
| 09:17:26 | 4 | THE COURT: I will give you -- you can do it one of |
| 09:17:28 | 5 | two ways. I will give you up to 50 pages in a combined brief |
| 09:17:35 | 6 | or 30 pages individually. |
| 09:17:38 | 7 | MR. HUON: Thank you, Judge. |
| 09:17:39 | 8 | THE COURT: That should be more than adequate. You |
| 09:17:41 | 9 | have 60 days. That should be more than adequate. |
| 09:17:44 | 10 | MR. HUON: That is, Judge. |
| 09:17:44 | 11 | THE COURT: In light of the expanded pages, I wil1 |
| 09:17:47 | 12 | give each of the defense groups 20 pages for reply. |
| 09:17:52 | 13 | Anything else we need to address? |
| 09:17:54 | 14 | MR. HUON: Do you want us to hold off on a 26(f) |
| 09:17:56 | 15 | conference? |
| 09:17:57 | 16 | THE COURT: Yes. We are going to get straight -- we |
| 09:18:00 | 17 | are going to get at issue before we start talking about moving |
| 09:18:03 | 18 | ahead with discovery. |
| 09:18:06 | 19 | MR. MANDELL: I don't want to quibble, but our chart |
| 09:18:07 | 20 | is 10 pages, and it really is just for the benefit of the |
| 09:18:12 | 21 | Court because he has allegations against Breaking Media alone |
| 09:18:17 | 22 | of over 50 alleged defamatory statements. |
| 09:18:21 | 23 | MR. HUON: Sorry. I misspoke. |
| 09:18:23 | 24 | THE COURT: That's fine. I will give you -- both |
| 09:18:26 | 25 | sides should have ample pages to make your points, and we will |


| 09:18:31 | 1 | take them under advisement. We will try to address things |
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| 09:18:36 | 2 | expeditiously, so if the case is able to move forward, we can |
| 09:18:39 | 3 | get started on that. |
| 09:18:41 | 4 | MR. MANDELL: One more thing, your Honor. I may have |
| 09:18:43 | 5 | missed it, but did we set a deadline for the reply briefs? |
| 09:18:50 | 6 | MR. FEIGE: I don't believe so. |
| 09:18:50 | 7 | THE COURT: I don't think we set a schedule. We |
| 09:18:52 | 8 | should definitely do that. How long -- well, we gave Mr. Huon |
| 09:18:55 | 9 | 60 days. How long do you need for the reply? |
| 09:19:01 | 10 | MR. MANDELL: I wil1 say subject to what Mr. Feige |
| 09:19:05 | 11 | says, 21 days. |
| 09:19:06 | 12 | MR. FEIGE: I was going to say 30 , but I am fine -- I |
| 09:19:10 | 13 | am okay with either. |
| 09:19:11 | 14 | THE COURT: Wel1, to avoid coming back in, I wil1 |
| 09:19:15 | 15 | give you 28 days on the reply in light of the extended period |
| 09:19:18 | 16 | for the plaintiff's response. |
| 09:19:21 | 17 | MR. FEIGE: Great. That's great. |
| 09:19:22 | 18 | MR. MANDELL: Thank you. |
| 09:19:23 | 19 | THE COURT: Thank you all very much. |
|  | 20 | (Which were all the proceedings had in the above-entitled |
|  | 21 | cause on the day and date aforesaid.) |
|  | 22 | I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter. |
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|  | 24 | Carolyn R. Cox Date |
|  |  | Official Court Reporter |
|  | 25 | Northern District of Illinois |


| \$ | A | chart $[4]-9: 11,9: 12,9: 23,10: 19$ |
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| 5 |  | David [3] - 3:12, 3:13, 3:14 |
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| 6 |  | defamatory [1] - 10:22 |
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